

# Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

The Epiphany (B)

7th January 2018

## DEANERY TEAM

**Priest:** Fr. Paul Seddon  
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**Tel:** 01942 673517 or 731280  
**Email:** stjosephs@live.com

**Deacons:** Rev. Robert Hewertson & Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

**Schools:** www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk – www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk  
www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk – saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk - saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk  
http://stmaryschs.org.uk/ – **Deanery website:** www.leighdeanery.co.uk



## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Psalter** Week 1  
**Readings** Sunday – The Epiphany (B)  
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 1

**Sunday** The Epiphany (B)  
**Monday** The Baptism of the Lord  
**Next Sunday** 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)  
(Peace Sunday)



## LEIGH DEANERY

**Parish of St. Margaret  
Clitherow**

**St. Ambrose Barlow**  
Astley  
**St. Gabriel's**  
Higher Folds  
**Holy Family**  
Boothstown  
**Sacred Heart**  
Hindsford  
**St. Richard's**  
Atherton

**Parish of St. Edmund  
Arrowsmith**

**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
Sacred Heart  
**St. Joseph's**  
Twelve Apostles  
Leigh

## Archdiocesan Mission Statement



**Taking to heart the  
last words of the Lord  
Jesus, we will go into  
the world to proclaim  
the Good News to the  
whole of creation.**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Christmas cards and carols, nativity plays and paintings, all have three kings coming to worship the Lord. But in Matthew's Gospel they are not called kings but wise men. Although tradition tells us that there were three of them, the Gospel never states that this is the case. The traditional number of wise men, three, comes from the three gifts that Matthew tells us were given to Jesus at his birth: "gold, frankincense and myrrh." So who were these mysterious visitors from the east? And why did they come? They are sometimes referred to as the "Magi", from a Greek word which is the origin of our word "magic". They were pagans, magicians, astrologers, readers of the stars, rather than crowned monarchs. But they, along with other faiths, were part of God's plan too. They sought the light that was the Son of God. As they followed the star they went off in search of a greater light, the uncreated light and the very source of all light that is Jesus. Their reading of the stars succeeded on this occasion, as they were led by God to Bethlehem. Yet when they reached their destination, the magi left behind their worship of the stars, and fell down to worship the one who made the stars and the sun and life itself.

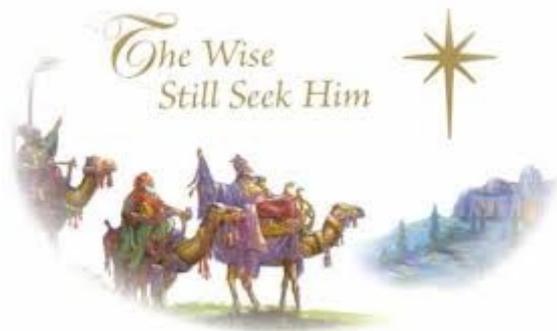
Matthew had his reasons for describing, so near to the beginning of the Gospel, the coming of the magi from pagan and Gentile lands. For at the end of the Gospel he tells us of Jesus sending out the apostles to the Gentiles, instructing them to "Go make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you." The magi from the east represented all the Gentile nations coming to Christ, and the homage of their kings and people, as the light of the Gospel began to spread all over the world. The magi may have been magicians when they went in search of Christ, but wise men when they returned home, wise enough not to go back to Herod, after being warned in a dream to avoid him. Full of excitement and joy at what they had seen, they went back and shared their story.

2000 years have passed since the magi travelled to Bethlehem, searching for the light. Their journey could not have been easy. The journey to Christ for all of us very often isn't easy. They no doubt had to give up a great deal to find him, but nothing was more important to them than their spiritual quest. Moreover, they grasped the truth that, while they were searching, God had been leading them. It was God who lit the star, and God who encouraged them to set out on their journey, because God loved them, and God wanted to be found by them. One of the things that the wise men's journey gave them was time. They reflected, they thought, perhaps they prayed. This is one of the great blessings of a spiritual journey or pilgrimage. Whether we are Catholics or not, Christians of different denominations, members of different faiths, or people who are still searching to find faith, we need time to think about our lives and our search for God. It was a very significant moment when the magi fell down to worship Jesus and give him their gifts. It is a similar moment when a person is baptized, or comes into Church for the first time, or takes a new step in faith. At least once, Matthew tells us, the magi were lost on their journey, first arriving in Jerusalem rather than Bethlehem, but then they were wise enough to ask the way. May our Parish Community always be ready to welcome, encourage, provide opportunities, and show the way to those who are seeking, that, like the magi, they may find Christ, the light of the world. He is not far from all those who seek him, for, as he himself has told us, "the one who searches always finds."

**Psalms Response**  
**Gospel Acclamation**

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.  
We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.

## PARISH NEWS This Week



### **The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.



### **Ladies Group**

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will be on **Tuesday 9th January** at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Please remember to bring your Secret Santa Gift.

### **Parish Visit to Rome - June 2018**

**St Ambrose Barlow Hall,  
Tuesday 9th January - 8.00pm**

We have received enough interest to arrange a group visit to Rome, 18th - 22nd June, hopefully attending the Papal Audience. Please note we would be using public transport in the city so travellers will need to be fairly agile and able to walk long distances. Four nights - bed and breakfast - in a Religious House close to Vatican City.

If you are interested and want more information come along with your cheque books on Tuesday or Please contact Des - 07973 114365.

### **Holy Family Craft Group**

The Craft Group is now closed for Christmas and New Year. It will restart on **Wednesday 10th January** when the group will be making candles. Admission £3.50 including all materials.

### **Family Quiz Night**

Astley Churches Together invite you all to the annual Family Quiz Night to be held in St Ambrose Barlow Hall on **Friday 12th January** at 7.00pm.

Tickets are £3 per person or £10 for a family and include hotpot supper. Please note, there is no bar so please bring your own drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. For tickets see Steve Cooper or ring / text him on 07952 152371.

### **Admissions Consultation**

St Mary's Catholic High School are currently consulting on a change to their Admissions Criteria which would result in a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 280 to 260 with effect from September 2019. Further details, including Information on how you can respond, can be found on the St Mary's School website or via the following link

<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools/Admissions-Consultations>

This consultation will run between **6 December 2017 and 31 January 2018**.

### **Act in Support of Catholic Education**

Archbishop Malcolm wishes to contact us to encourage us to speak out for Catholic Education. He writes:

"Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government NOT to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools."

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

By forcing Catholic schools to turn away Catholic school children on the basis of their faith, the very principle of a Catholic parent's right to choose a Catholic education is under threat. Please fill in the simple form on the web site to take action:

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### **With You Always Programme**

An early notice to all those children who attend St.Ambrose Barlow School, St.Richard's School and Sacerd Heart School, Hindsford, that the "With You Always" programme, the preparation course for First Holy Communion, will begin during Lent. We hope to finalize all the preparation dates within the next few days and the dates, along with the dates of the celebrations themselves, will be available very soon from school or in the Churches of St.Ambrose Barlow and St.Richard's. So please watch this space for more details.

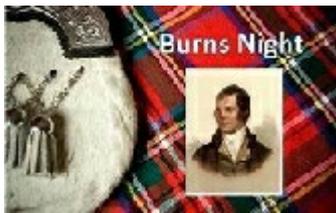
### **Wednesday Exposition**

A reminder that, just like previous years, we will have a break from having Exposition on Wednesday mornings at St.Richard's until we begin the season of Lent. Therefore the next time we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be Wednesday, February 21st.

### **6.30 pm Sunday Mass (St. Richard's)**

A reminder that we have now finished celebrating the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass at St.Richard's. Many thanks to all of you who supported this Mass and helped at it over the years. If you wish to read, or be involved at any of the other Masses, please speak to one of the priests after Mass.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### **Burns Night 2018**

**Friday 19th January** at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink – £7.00. As this is a popular night please contact Des 07973 114365 for reservations.



### **Sacred Heart Club Quiz Night**

**Cash Prizes - Every Thursday  
Doors open 8.00 pm for 8.30 start.**

### **Justice and Peace Annual Memorial Lecture 2018**

Dr Pete North, University of Liverpool Department of Geography and Planning, will be delivering the lecture "Towards Social and Solidarity Economies" on **Sunday 21st January**, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, at LACE, Croxteth Rd, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA. All are welcome.

### **Stratford Trip - 28th June 2018**

In the next few days Fr. Paul is going to start phoning people round to confirm their place on the trip to Stratford. All the theatre tickets are now sold. There are just three seats left on the coach for anyone who may still be interested. The cost for the coach is £10 per person. The theatre tickets are £22 and £16. Can you please pay asap by cheque if possible, making the cheque payable to the Parish Account, "St. Margaret Clitherow Parish".

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### **St Margaret Clitherow 200 Club**

Steve Cooper is now collecting names for this year's 200 Club. The 200 Club runs from January to April and it costs £20 to join (payable in one go or 4 monthly instalments). There will be a draw in January, February, March and April for £100 and £50. In late April there will be a cabaret evening in St Ambrose Barlow hall (Free to members). At that function a draw will be made for £1000, £100, £50 and 2 x £25. So for your £20 you have the chance to win a share a total of £1800. See Steve after Saturday / Sunday Mass or give him a ring on 07952 152371 to register for a number.

### **Collections - Used Stamps & Spectacles**

Don't forget to save the stamps from your Christmas Card envelopes! If you've had your eyes tested this year and have some old spectacles you no longer need please bring them along to St Ambrose Church. Stamps and glasses can be handed to Mary Barton or left in the red box in the church porch. Thank you!



### **Reflect:**

This weekend is a great feast for both the Latin Church and the Eastern Churches. "Epiphany" is a Greek word and it indicates a 'showing', a manifestation – usually of Divine Glory, what we might today call a 'Revelation'.

We are invited to become part of this story. Perhaps we can accompany the wise men and ask to share in the manifestation that they experienced in Bethlehem. Their journey, like our own lives, involved highs and lows, times of insight and doubt, a dream calling them forward and the deception of worldly values. But at the end they were enlightened in the presence of the child Jesus and "they knelt down and paid him homage". Will we do likewise?

### **Pray:**

Lord, I ask for the grace  
to let go of my own concerns  
and be open to what You are asking of me,  
to let myself be guided and formed by my loving Creator.

### **Act:**

The great movement of this Christmas season reshapes and reforms our lives and opens us not only to the 'epiphany' of Christ but to the 'epiphany' of humanity in Christ – a new way of being and acting, of living and loving and hoping. Make efforts this week to encounter Christ in others. Be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in your encounters with others.

### **Challenge:**

The wise men brought gifts to honour Jesus. What gifts do we have to share with others and in doing so gift ourselves to God?

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### **Response to the Archbishop's Letter**

A few weeks ago we listened to a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Malcolm concerning a way ahead for the whole of the Archdiocese. The letter was in response to the results of Deanery meetings throughout the Archdiocese early in the Summer – many thanks again to all those who came along to our Open Meeting in St. Joseph's. In his letter the Archbishop outlined a three-year plan in which we can share a vision for the future of the Archdiocese and every Parish and Deanery within it. This will lead to a Synod – a gathering of the whole Archdiocese in 2020. This doesn't mean that nothing will be done until then. It means that the process will begin in the New Year with a year of prayer. Therefore, during 2018, there will be a number of Holy Hours throughout the year. One of these will be led by the Archbishop himself. The second year will focus on Parish groups coming together to share their vision for the future. Then in the final year all the deaneries will meet on a more regular basis to propose a way ahead. It is a proposal that the Archbishop has initiated himself in response to the people who shared their views at the different Open Meetings last year. As soon as we know more about the process we will share it with you but, in the meantime, please come along to the Holy Hours when we have them in the New Year and pray for the future vision of our Church.

### **Newsletter**

Please ensure that items for next week's newsletter are sent in by Wednesday evening. Thank you.

### **Clergy Addresses**

**Fr Paul Seddon:** St Richard's Presbytery, Mayfield Street, Atherton, Manchester M46 0AQ

**Fr Paul Grady:** Holy Family Presbytery, 208 Chaddock Lane, Boothstown, Worsley, Manchester M28 1DN

### **Finance**

All monies should be paid into the Parish account of St Margaret Clitherow Please note spelling 'Clitherow'). Thank you.

**Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford Community Website**  
[www.sacredheartchindsford.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartchindsford.co.uk)

# PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick



Agnes Pilkington  
 All Cancer Patients  
 Ann Mellin  
 Anne Broad  
 Baby George  
 Bernard O'Donnell  
 Bridie Molyneux  
 Catherine Jones  
 Christopher Browne  
 Clifford Browne  
 Derek Maude  
 Edward Leach  
 Emma Oldham  
 Enid Kenwright  
 Eugenie Cheetham  
 Fon O'Hara  
 Freda Peake  
 Gerald Hackett  
 Guy Ryan  
 Hannah Delargy  
 Irene Burke  
 Irene McIntyre  
 Jean Tchibukdjian  
 Jess Garrett  
 Joan Wilkinson  
 John Wall  
 Kathy Kenyon  
 Maisie Sweeney (age9)  
 Margaret Case  
 Margaret Dawson  
 Margaret Hurley  
 Margaret Ross  
 Margaret Smith  
 Margaret Wall  
 Marjorie Price  
 Mary Tiernan  
 Maureen Halliday  
 Michael Skiffington  
 Michael Wright  
 Patricia Wilson  
 Rev Jim Melia  
 Sandra Jones  
 Shelagh Welsby  
 Sr Megan Haisley  
 Ted & Harriet Langin  
 Thomas Higgins  
 Thomas McLoughlin  
 Wyn Wright

Those who have died, especially

Madeleine Sighe  
 Kathleen Oaks

Week Beginning 7th January	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Ronald Hailwood  11.00 am Joan Higgins	(Sat) 6.00 pm Eileen West  11.00 am Alice Hewertson	(Sat) 6.00 pm John Healy  9.30 am A Special Intention
<b>MONDAY</b>			
<b>TUESDAY</b>		9.15 am Bill Green	9.15 am Brian Ogden
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7.00 pm Paul Goggins		<i>No Exposition until Lent</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	12noon Funeral Mass for Madeleine Sighe		9.15 am Tess Fallon
<b>FRIDAY</b>	10.00 am Margaret & George Baybutt <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am The McCann Family
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am Maisie Sweeney	6.00 pm Mary Walsh	6.00 pm Pat Shaw
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Margaret Kelly, Daniel and Nellie Conneely  11.00 am Kathleen Roddy	11.00 am Joan Clegg	9.30 am John Hazeldene

## LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Christmas Day  
 Collections £3562.81  
 Offertory £2128.90  
 Crib £ 179.52

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today  
 Crib Offerings

Next Week (Peace Sunday)  
 Pax Christi

Pax Christi is an international Catholic peace organisation providing support and resources for the Christian community in the UK.

Website: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Confessions after 10.00 am Mass at Holy Family & after both 6.00 pm Masses in St Ambrose and St Richard's. Confession also available where possible by request or by appointment.

## READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Second Sunday of the Year (B)

**First Reading** *1 Samuel 3:3-10*  
 After being called four times by God, the boy Samuel comes to understand who it is and responds, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

**Second Reading** *1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20*  
 United with Jesus, we are one Spirit with him and our bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit.

**Gospel Reading** *John 1:35-42*  
 John the Baptist points out Jesus as "the Lamb of God" and two of his followers become Jesus' first disciples.

## BAPTISM

We welcome into our family of Faith

Lora Zieba

May God bless her & her family.

## WEDDING

Congratulations to

Jennifer Riley and Phillip Scott

who were married at Holy Family last week.